



## Tuolumne Meadows Lodgepole Pine Project

### Why are people removing trees from Tuolumne Meadows?

Last summer, beginning in August 2005, the Division of Resources Management and Science in Yosemite National Park coordinated an effort to restore and protect Tuolumne Meadows. This effort will continue through the summer of 2006. Yosemite National Park Service (NPS) restoration crews, Youth Conservation Corp members, and Yosemite Fund volunteers from Deloitte are going to be removing sapling size lodgepole pines. Studies show that construction of the Tioga Road stimulated lodgepole growth in the area. Lodgepole pine removal will enhance the size and function of the meadow ecosystem as well as restore scenic vistas.

This project was made possible by The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit park partner that is the primary fundraising organization for Yosemite National Park.

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### Why are the lodgepole pines encroaching into Tuolumne Meadows?

Heavy spring runoff historically flooded Tuolumne Meadows to an extent that prevented the establishment of lodgepole seedlings along meadow margins. Floodwaters saturate the pore space in soil, denying sufficient oxygen to the roots of the pines, and increase the likelihood of root rot and seedling mortality. Construction of the Tioga Road has altered the drainage patterns by diverting, channelizing and restricting portions of the meadow from flood water inundation.

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### What impacts does lodgepole pine encroachment have on meadow health?

Tuolumne Meadows is an important ecological and recreational component of Yosemite National Park. Meadows perform a variety of functions vital to ecosystem integrity such as:

- Purification of lakes and streams by filtering sediments from runoff
- nutrient capture
- foraging habitat for deer, marmots and other small mammals
- support high levels of plant and animal diversity

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### What size trees are coming out?

The majority of the trees will have a trunk width of less than four inches, and no trees with trunks larger than ten inches will be removed.

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## What will happen to the trees once they are cut?

Cut trees will be loaded into a truck and hauled to a nearby area in Tuolumne for chipping. Tree chips will be used as mulch on Tuolumne restoration projects.

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## Public Participation

Here are some ways to learn more and stay involved:

- For questions regarding the lodgepole pine removal project please contact: Lisa Acree, Park Botanist, at 209/379- 1217.
- Add your name to the park's mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.

Mail: Superintendent  
Attn: Planning Mailing List  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379- 1294

Email: YOSE\_Planning@nps.gov

- The status of other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online: [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).
- Visit The Yosemite Fund's web site at [www.yosemitfund.org](http://www.yosemitfund.org).



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